

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3300
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2000
TELECOM FACILITIES IN WEST BENGAL
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of telephone subscribers in West Bengal at present, district-wise;
- (b) the progress made in laying of telephone lines and setting up of new telephone exchanges in backward areas of northern part of West Bengal so far;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide value-added services such as cellular telephones and pagers in these districts;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have formulated any specific programme for the improvement in telephone service, including STD facilities in Backward areas of North Bengal;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; (g) whether the telephone services in Haldibari are not satisfactory; (h) if so, the reasons therefor; and (i) the steps taken by the Government to connect Haldibari from Jalpaiguri Telephone Exchange and provide satisfactory telephone service ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) As on 30th November, 2000 there are 1703257 telephone subscribers in West Bengal. District-wise details are given in Annexure.
- (b) In northern part of West Bengal, 10755 telephone connections have been provided and 3 new telephone exchanges have been opened from 1st April, 2000 to 30th November, 2000.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to provide Cellular Services in the Northern part of the West Bengal during 2001-2002. At present there is no proposal to provide pager service.
- (e) Yes, Sir.
- (f) During current financial year there is a plan to:
 - (i) set up 35 new telephone exchanges.
 - (ii) augment STD Junctions at 76 stations.
 - (iii) provide reliable media in 77 telephone exchanges.
- (g) No, Sir.
- (h) Does not arise in view of (g) above.
- (i) Haldibari is already connected to Jalpaiguri on a stable media (120 Channel Digital Microwave system)